

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 SCCT-01

IO-10 (ISO) W

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P R 100856Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1048

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19007

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, BM, TH

SUBJECT: RTG SAYS IT WILL EXPEL BURMESE REBEL LEADERS

REF: A) FBIS BK 091445Y SEP 75

B) BANGKOK 6293, APRIL 18, '74

1. THE THAI CABINET DECIDED SEPTEMBER 9 TO EXPEL THE LEADERS OF THE BURMESE REBEL GROUPS OPERATING ON AND FROM THAI TERRITORY, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, SETTING A DEADLINE FOR THEIR DEPARTURE. REF A CONTAINS THE BANGKOK DOMESTIC SERVICE NEWS ITEM. THE INTERIOR AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES WILL JOINTLY DRAW UP MEASURES TO EFFECT THE NEW POLICY. THIS DECISION RESPONDS TO THE GUB REQUEST TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI DURING HIS APRIL 1974 VISIT TO RANGOON TO CLAMP DOWN ON THE DISSIDENTS (REF B), AND FOLLOWS CONSISTENTLY WITH THAILAND'S RECENT GESTURE TO THE PGNU OF EXPELLING THE MOST PROMINENT LAO RIGHTISTS.

2. COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT THE DECISION IS PROBABLY
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MORE COSMETIC THAN SUBSTANTIVE. THE LACK OF EVEN A DISTANT

DEADLINE FORETELLS LONG DELAYS, PERHAPS BEFORE EVEN
TOKEN IMPLEMENTATION OCCURS. WE DO NOT YET KNOW ENOUGH
ABOUT WHO STAFFED OUT THE PROPOSAL BEFORE IT WENT TO THE
CABINET, AND ESPECIALLY THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT HAD
SUPREME COMMAND'S BLESSING.

3. AS WE HAVE REPORTED BEFORE, THE PRESENCE IN NORTH
THAILAND OF THE BURMESE REBEL ELEMENTS IS AN INTEGRAL
PART OF THAILAND'S BORDER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS IN AN AREA
WHERE ITS MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES ARE DISMALLY INADEQUATE
TO PATROL THE INHOSPITABLE TERRAIN. IN THE PAST SUPREME
COMMAND HAS NEEDED THE BURMESE REBELS' FRIENDSHIP AS A
Surer BET THAN GUB FORCES AS A BULWARK AGAINST PRC AND
BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY SOUTHWARD PRESSURE TOWARDS THE
THAI BORDER. MOREOVER, THE THAI HAVE BELIEVED THAT IF
THEY EXPELLED THE REBELS, THE LATTER MIGHT TURN AROUND AND
HARASS RTG SECURITY FORCES, PERHAPS IN CONCERT WITH
THE BCP.

4. IF, THEREFORE, YESTERDAY'S CABINET DECISION IS A
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS END RUN AROUND SUPREME COMMAND,
WE CAN EXPECT SCANT IMPLEMENTATION.
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